

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Joint Meeting of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force

Held on January 22, 2007

CDFA Auditorium

1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present

Dennis Atkinson
Greg Coleman
Edgar "Pete" Downs

Ben Drake
Frank Leeds
Dana Merrill

Al Rossini
Herb Schmidt
Jim Unti

Members Absent

Kevin Andrew
Hugh (Wally) Ewart

Drew Johnson
Bradford Lange

Steve McIntyre

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present

Ben Drake
David House
Scott Hudson
Nancy Irelan

Richard Mounts
Steve Nation
Corky Roche
Judy Stewart-Leslie

Beth Stone-Smith
Craig Weaver
David Whitmer

Members Absent

Kevin Andrew
Ted Batkin
Larry Bezark

Drew Johnson
Joe MacIlvaine

John Snyder
Robert Wample

OTHER ATTENDEES

Amadou Ba
Alan Bennett
Patrina Brennan
Christmas Colazzo
Michelle Dennis
David Elms
Tom Esser
Mike Falasco
Ken Freeze
Josef Geoola
Gloria Gin

Craig Hanes
Barry Hill
Hope Kinney
Humesh Kumar
Janet LeMasters
Terrance Lorick
Raygina Medeiros
Melinda Mochel
Mike Miller
David Morgan
Greg Morris

Kari Morrow
Warren Nichols
Stacie Oswalt
Richard Pierce
Ted Rieger
Roger Spencer
Meredith Torres
Sean Veling
Myrna Villegas
Shaun Winterton
Bob Wynn

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chairperson Pete Downs and Advisory Task Force (ATF) Acting Chairperson Ben Drake called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Pete Downs welcomed the Board and ATF members and also the staff of the Pierce's Disease Control Program. Bob Wynn announced that the majority of the statewide PDCP staff was present at the meeting. He also commended the PDCP staff for all of their hard work and achievements

made during the past years in managing and operating the program. PDCP staff introduced themselves to the members.

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board and the PD Advisory Task Force. Quorums were not present initially for either group, but were achieved later as members arrived. Bob informed the Board and ATF members that Steve Pavich had resigned from the ATF. In an email to Bob, Steve expressed his enjoyment being on the committee and commended the members for their hard work in finding a solution to Pierce's disease. He said, "It was an honor to serve with such talented people." Self-introductions followed for guests in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Pete Downs welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was his last meeting as Chairperson, and he expressed thanks to all the Board and Task Force members, Bob Wynn, and the PDCP staff for their support and assistance during his tenure. Bob Wynn presented Pete with a Certificate of Appreciation acknowledging him for his dedication and contributions. Pete would remain on the Board as a member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Pete Downs asked the members to review, approve and vote on the minutes for the three previous meetings.

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force to approve the minutes of the meetings held in Sacramento on June 7 and October 12, 2006 and the minutes of PD/GWSS Board conference call held on January 8, 2007.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Nomination Committee members Greg Coleman and Dana Merrill recommended Ben Drake, Herb Schmidt and Jim Unti for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Treasurer, respectively.

ELECTION OF PD/GWSS BOARD OFFICERS

After discussion and consideration, the Board voted and unanimously passed the following motion:

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend to the Secretary that the following members be appointed as Board officers: Bennett Drake, Chairperson; Herb Schmidt, Vice Chairperson; and Jim Unti, Treasurer.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in Sacramento at CDFA in the Auditorium.

BOARD AND ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Bob Wynn stated that there were vacancies on the PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force. The vacancies were due to the resignations of Steve Pavich, Rick Roush, and Kim Waddell from the Task Force, and Paul Wulf from the Board.

FISCAL UPDATE

Bob Wynn reviewed the budget and fiscal information. He noted that it was anticipated that federal appropriations could be significantly reduced in the coming fiscal years and a budget was still pending

final approval. There was a brief discussion on the need for a trip to Washington D.C. in March to meet with Congressional representatives and USDA officials to discuss the federal appropriations for Pierce's disease.

PIPRA UPDATE

Alan Bennett gave an update on PIPRA activities—the intellectual property (IP) support contract—for Pierce's disease (PD). He noted that he would be working closely with Nancy Irelan and the new Research Scientific Advisory Panel (RSAP).

PIPRA would be addressing several issues as PD research projects will continue in the years to come. There needs to be a collaboration between researchers and intellectual property individuals to maintain a comprehensive database. There are currently over 70 proprietary technologies that are integrated into the PIPRA database. Numerous patents are related specifically to PD, scientific literature, proceedings of symposiums, and research summaries. One obstacle they have found is the PD-funded institutions all had different IP policies and objectives.

Objectives of PIPRA for 2006-07 include: general maintenance of the PD database; annual impact statements of sponsorship; focus initiatives; improve visibility of the PD program; simplify legal use of components that interface with projects; increase communication between research scientists; provide materials on database navigation links and patents; and perform an audit of a particular research project. The impact statement would be a very useful informational tool for the RSAP for evaluating and quantifying impacts on PD research projects. It will show which publications and patents are the result of work funded exclusively by CDFA and will enable the RSAP and Board to compile reports on individual researchers and their work. This will prove to be a very valuable resource and will enable CDFA to stay on top of progress and maintain it.

RESEARCH PROGRAM REPORT

Tom Esser provided an update on the joint CDFA/UC RFP, the new RSAP, and the Plant Pathology Consortium (PPC) Proposals.

RFP: There were a total of 49 proposals submitted in response to the joint RFP, totaling \$9.7 million over two years. The proposals are currently in the review process, and a recommendation will be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

RSAP: The newly established RSAP will be reviewing the overall PD/GWSS research program to determine data gaps and identify promising areas to focus future research efforts on. The members are Roger Innes (Panel Chair, Indiana University), Adam Bogdanove (Iowa State University), Michael Davis (University of Florida), Greg Loeb (Cornell University), George Sundin (Michigan State University), Daniel Sumner (UC Davis), and Frank Zalom (UC Davis). PIPRA is assisting with the effort by developing a database of research projects. The RSAP plans to hold its first face-to-face meeting in May 2007.

Industry Liaison Group: A new Industry Scientific Liaison Group has been established to advise and interact with the RSAP. The members include Pete Downs, Charles Hossom, Steve McIntyre, Steve Pavich, Karen Ross, and Bob Steinhauer.

PPC: Issues have surfaced regarding the UC Discovery Grant program and the PPC proposals discussed at the last Board meeting. The Bruening proposal is not eligible for UC Discovery Grant funding because only new funding is matched, not previously-arranged funding. Regarding the Lindow proposal, the research partner in that proposal (Los Alamos National Laboratory) is under new

management and may no longer be part of the University of California. This means it is not eligible for UC Discovery Grant funding.

AREAWIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith gave an update on the current status of areawide projects in Kern, Tulare, Riverside, and Ventura counties. The General Beale project in Kern County had seen a lot of activity as GWSS numbers were up considerably for 2006; over 15,000 compared to a little over 3,000 in 2005. Due to freezing temperatures, they were hoping for kill-off and low amounts of survivors. Follow-up treatments will continue based on timing and trapping. In Tulare, populations were also up especially in July; again trappings were 2,974 compared to 980 in 2005. Ventura County's numbers for 2006 had increased by almost 30,000 from the 2005 totals. Two-thirds of this area is citrus. Projected treatments of Pyrethrum, Acetamiprid and Imidacloprid would continue for the 2006-07 fiscal year. Overall, in 2006 there were higher numbers of GWSS in the project areas than in the previous year.

PIERCE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM STAFF REPORTS

Outreach and Education Update: Roger Spencer reported the Outreach Subcommittee had met on January 12, 2007, to discuss the public outreach contract with the Brown-Miller Communications which was due to expire at the end of February. The Subcommittee recommended the following: increase the circulation of the newsletter (including more articles and press stories that encourage more growers participation at the annual PD Research Symposium); inform and improve communications with farmers and growers to keep them up-to-date on the latest information; and enhance their links to CDFA. Sharing Pierce's disease articles on research activities, written for the lay audience, is vital to the wine and grape industries. The Subcommittee would meet and advise Brown-Miller every quarter.

Ken Freeze of Brown-Miller Communications noted that two new handouts (a newsletter and brochure) had been published. He mentioned that a survey would be sent out to everyone on their mailing list requesting feedback they wanted to see and hear about. The survey results should be available in April 2007.

Chairperson-elect Ben Drake stated they would discuss extending the public outreach contract in closed Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

Nursery Update: Greg Morris stated that the pilot nursery program was providing positive feedback; rejections had decreased by almost half in 2006 (47) compared to 2005 (84) based on viable life stages of GWSS. Three nurseries were still participating in the program (Norman's, Valley Crest and Village) and the threshold had been expanded to 40 egg masses per shipment.

Rapid Response Program Update: Craig Hanes reported on activities in Santa Clara, Solano, Sacramento, Fresno, Tulare and Imperial counties in 2006. Bulk citrus shipping rejection numbers were down to only two during the season. Finds and treatments were ongoing in the same three sites in Santa Clara County. Solano County reports no finds of any GWSS life stages. Sacramento County had minimal treatments in their existing two sites. Parasites are still being released in these three counties. On a positive note, Fresno County's Fowler area had been declared eradicated in June 2006 but they continued treating six other infested sites with Merit. Tulare County also had six infested areas under going treatments.

Biocontrol Update: David Morgan reported on the continued progress of the biocontrol program. He said that the purchase of the Arvin facility was going forward for the coming year.

Pierce's Disease Research Symposium and EIR: Tom Esser reported that the 2006 Pierce's Disease Research Symposium was held November 27-29, 2006 in San Diego. The format was similar to prior

years, with poster sessions, speakers, and publication of the proceedings. Tom also provided an update on the EIR lawsuit. Attorneys on both sides met to negotiate payment of the legal costs of the petitioners, as awarded by the court. The two sides agreed on \$164,000. The next task is to prepare a supplemental environmental document addressing the deficiencies identified by the court.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE TASK FORCE MEETING

Acting Task Force Chairperson Drake adjourned the meeting of the PD Advisory Task Force at 3:35 pm.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO G.C. SECTION 11126

The Board met in Closed Executive Session to discuss and decide whether to extend the public outreach contract with Brown-Miller Communications.

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Board's public meeting was reconvened at 3:55. After discussion and consideration, the Board voted and passed the following motion:

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend to the Secretary that the CDFA extend its current contract with Brown-Miller Communications for an additional year, at an amount not to exceed to \$150,000, to continue providing public outreach activities and services to the CDFA Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board.

The Board also requested the Public Outreach Subcommittee to be more active in providing input and direction to the outreach contractor.

OTHER ITEMS

None.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson-elect Ben Drake adjourned the Board meeting at 4:00 p.m.